

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE DIRECTOR OF  
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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# 40

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD  
WASHINGTON

MAR 5 - 1952

General Walter B. Smith  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C.

My dear General Smith:

I am enclosing a copy of the Plan for Conducting Psychological Operations During General Hostilities, approved by the Psychological Strategy Board at its meeting on February 21, 1952, together with a copy of [redacted] memorandum to the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council transmitting a copy of the Plan.

For the Director:

[redacted]

Executive Officer

Enclosures:

Plan for Conducting Psychological Operations  
During General Hostilities.  
Memorandum to the Executive Secretary of the  
National Security Council dated Feb. 29,  
1952 from [redacted]

NSC review(s) completed.

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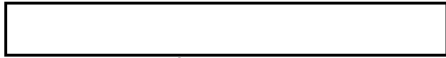
February 29, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

Subject: Plan for Conducting Psychological Operations During  
General Hostilities.

References: Memorandum for NSC from Executive Secretary, same  
subject, dated July 23, 1951;  
Memorandum for Director, PSB, from Executive Secretary,  
NSC, same subject, dated July 23, 1951.

The Psychological Strategy Board approved a plan on the  
above subject at its meeting on February 21, 1952, after  
incorporating therein changes proposed by the Joint Chiefs of  
Staff. Two copies of the approved plan are forwarded here-  
with.

  
Director

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Enclosures

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Copy No. 40

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD  
Washington 25, D. C.

26 February 1952

PLAN FOR CONDUCTING PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

during

GENERAL HOSTILITIES

This Paper Was Approved

By the

Psychological Strategy Board

on 21 February 1952

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PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD  
Washington 25, D. C.

26 February 1952

PLAN FOR CONDUCTING PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

during

GENERAL HOSTILITIES

(Code Name: )

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Reference: (a) Presidential Secret Directive of 4 April 1951  
Establishing a Psychological Strategy Board  
(b) NSC 10/2.  
(c) NSC 10/5.  
(d) NSC 20/4.  
(e) NSC 59/1.

I. MISSION

To conduct psychological operations in pursuance of prescribed national objectives during general hostilities.

II. DEFINITIONS

Within the purview of this plan the following definitions shall apply:

a. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS: Shall include all activities (other than overt types of economic warfare) envisioned under NSC 59/1 and 10/2.

b. MILITARY THEATER OF OPERATIONS: A so entitled, geographically delimited, and competently proclaimed portion of a theater of war necessary for military operations, either offensive or defensive, pursuant to an assigned mission, and for the administration incident to such military operations.

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c. TO COORDINATE: This expression means that agencies "coordinated with" shall participate actively; that their concurrence shall be sought; and that if concurrence is not obtained, the disputed matter shall be referred to the next higher authority in which all participants have a voice.

### III. ASSUMPTION

That the United States and its Allies are engaged in general hostilities forced upon them by the USSR or any of its satellites.

### IV. NATIONAL OBJECTIVES WHICH WILL MAINTAIN IN A CONDITION OF GENERAL HOSTILITIES

During a condition of general hostilities United States national objectives vis-a-vis the USSR will be, unless modified by appropriate authority, as set forth in Paragraph 19 of NSC 20/4:

"To counter the threats to our national security and well-being posed by the USSR, our general objectives with respect to Russia, in time of peace as well as in time of war, should be:

- "a. To reduce the power and influence of the USSR to limits which no longer constitute a threat to the peace, national independence and stability of the world family of nations.
- "b. To bring about a basic change in the conduct of international relations by the government in power in Russia, to conform with the purposes and principles set forth in the UN Charter.

"In pursuing these objectives due care must be taken to avoid permanently impairing our economy and the fundamental values and institutions inherent in our way of life."

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V. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF OPERATIONS

1. Psychological operations programs are established instruments of national policy and shall, therefore, be consistent with and directed toward the achievement of national objectives.

2. As appropriate, psychological operations and policies and plans pertaining thereto shall be coordinated with similar operations, policies and plans of our Allies.

VI. DELINEATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Psychological Strategy Board shall be responsible for:  
(a) the formulation and promulgation, as guidance to the departments and agencies responsible for psychological operations, of over-all national psychological objectives, policies and programs, (b) the coordination and evaluation of the national psychological effort.

2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, in conformity with established national policy and Psychological Strategy Board guidance, and except as provided in paragraphs VI 4 and VI 5 immediately below, shall be responsible for planning and execution of U.S. psychological operations in military theaters of operations.

3. The Department of State, in conformity with established national policy and Psychological Strategy Board guidance, and except as provided in paragraph VI 4 immediately below, shall be responsible for the planning and execution of U.S. overt psychological operations in areas other than military theaters of operations.

4. In situations in which a military theater of operations embraces territory of a government which exercises civil authority and to which a U.S. diplomatic mission is accredited, in conformity with

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established national policy and Psychological Strategy Board guidance, the Department of State shall be responsible for the U.S. Information Program directed toward the nationals of the country concerned.

5. Covert psychological operations shall be planned, conducted, and coordinated in accordance with established national policies; applicable NSC directives, including but not limited to NSC 10/2 and pertinent portions of NSC 10/5 and NSC 59/1; and the President's Directive of 4 April 1951 establishing the Psychological Strategy Board,

6. Overt psychological operations originating in areas other than military theaters of operations shall be coordinated with the Joint Chiefs of Staff when such operations will directly affect approved strategic plans or strategic direction of military forces.

7. Psychological operations originating in military theaters of operations shall be coordinated with the Department of State in cases where such operations will have a direct effect outside the military theater of operations upon approved current or projected diplomatic action or overt psychological operations of that Department.

8. The Psychological Strategy Board shall ensure, through the government agency or agencies appropriate in the instant circumstances, any necessary coordination of national psychological operations, policies, or plans with the appropriate agency or agencies of other governments.

9. The Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be responsible for any necessary coordination of U.S. psychological operations with similar operations of other governments in military theaters of operations.

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10. The Department of State shall be responsible for any necessary coordination of U.S. psychological operations with similar operations of other governments outside military theaters of operations.

11. All government departments and agencies which are not elsewhere mentioned in this plan and which are or may be assigned responsibilities for executing psychological operations outside the U.S. shall:

- a. Adhere to guidance issued by the Psychological Strategy Board.
- b. Coordinate their policies and plans with the Joint Chiefs of staff for activities in military theaters of operations and with the Department of State in areas other than military theaters of operations.
- c. Conduct their operations in the field under the U.S. Military Commander designated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in military theaters of operations and coordinate their operations in the field with the chief of the U.S. diplomatic mission in areas other than military theaters of operations.

12. The Central Intelligence Agency shall ensure that appropriate intelligence support is provided for U.S. psychological operations and that intelligence activities of government departments and agencies in this field are properly coordinated.

VII. ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Information facilities and appropriate personnel of the Department of State and other overt executing agencies in areas which become military theaters of operations shall be made available to the U.S. Military Commander designated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in that theater under statutory and other competent authority during the approximate time of military control in that area. Plans for orderly transfer,

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and later return, of information facilities and appropriate personnel of the Department of State and other overt executing agencies shall be coordinated by the Psychological Strategy Board.

VIII. PLANNING AND EXECUTION

1. This basic national psychological operations plan is in effect for planning purposes. All government departments and agencies having responsibilities specifically assigned herein shall, as a matter of high priority, draft supporting plans and make all preparations necessary for efficient execution of the provisions herein contained.

2. This plan shall be executed upon Presidential proclamation that a state of general hostilities exists with the USSR and its satellites, upon official declaration of war with the USSR and its satellites, or at such other time as the President may direct.

3. Provisions of this plan, when executed in accordance with paragraph 2 above, supersede any portion of NSC 59/1 which is in conflict therewith.

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